

# Re: rainbow colors in Compact Disc reflections

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.optics/2005-08/msg00260.html>

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- *From:* Andy Resnick <[andy.resnick@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:andy.resnick@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 22 Aug 2005 09:27:59 -0400
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redbelly wrote:

It's called diffraction, and involves wave interference. You can look up diffraction, or "diffraction grating", in an optics book like Hecht, or at Google.

FYI- one of the students at a local science fair did a project to measure the pitch on all kinds of cd-like objects: CD, CD-R, DVD, Laser disk, etc. etc. etc. It was a great project, really good- it's something a motivated high school student could do on their own. I'd recommend it to teachers as a good laboratory exercise.

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